

***Ukraine-Romania Relations:  
Perceptions, Perspectives, Priorities***

**Tetiana Kostiuchenko  
Strategic and Security Studies Group  
Kyiv, Ukraine**

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## Project background

- Previous experience of SSSG in studying the region
  - ❑ We discovered a range of factors which impede effective cooperation development between stakeholders
  - ❑ Among both parties, we saw insufficient understanding of the factors which provided impact on current relations and drivers which can initiate changes
- There is a necessity in developing the dialog in the region
  - ❑ Dialog between non-governmental think-tanks and organizations
  - ❑ Dialog between governments
  - ❑ ? Defining other stakeholders ?
- Support from the Romanian partners – objectives were similar, but assessments varied
  - ❑ we came to the idea of conducting a survey of opinions and perceptions of Ukrainian, Romanian and international experts
  - ❑ idea of creating a wide expert consortium for developing joint strategy for the future

## Methodology

- English version of the questionnaire for expert survey – during 2 weeks, together with Romanian partners (RESURSE Association)
- The final version of the questionnaire – 26 questions, as open as with alternatives, and socio-demographic section
- English version was translated into Ukrainian and Romanian languages
- Then the questionnaire was distributed among the sample of experts (via email) with supporting explanation about the project objectives and tasks

## Sample for expert survey

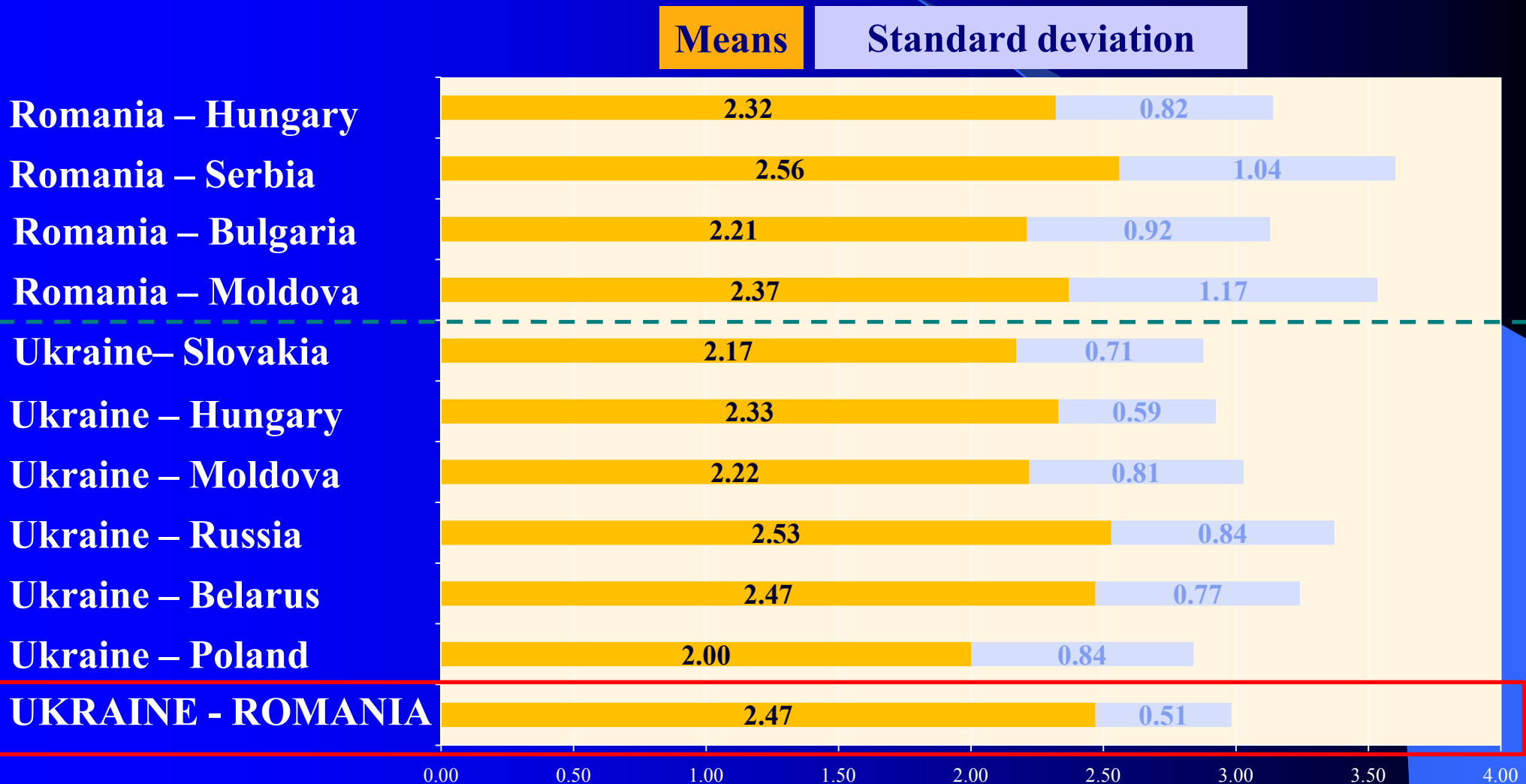
- The overall sample included 120 experts
- As for October 05, 2011 we received 26 filled-in questionnaires from Ukrainian, Romanian and international experts (~20% response rate)
- Additional questionnaires will be distributed in printed form – to increase the response rate

# Expert «profile»

	%
Male	63,2
Female	36,8
Below 29 y.o.	36,8
30-39 y.o.	15,8
40-49 y.o.	26,3
50-59 y.o.	10,5
60 y.o. and more	10,5
Undergraduate (not obtained BA degree yet)	26,3
Graduate (obtained BA, enrolled in specialist/MA degree program)	31,6
Post-graduate (obtained specialist/MA degree/ enrolled into PhD program)	31,6
Post-doctorate (obtained PhD degree or 'kandydat nauk')	5,3
Doctorate/ Professorship (obtained 'doktor nauk' or passed habilitation)	5,3
Researcher/analyst at the non-state think tank	36,8
Researcher/analyst at the state-funded research institute	5,3
Students, youth leaders	26,3
Diplomatic officials	5,3
Media observers	15,8
Other	10,5
TOTAL	100,0



# Relations Ukraine-Romania VS. relations with other neighbouring states



# Impact of various factors on Romania-Ukraine relations

Not important at all      ■ Rather not important  
 ■ Rather important      ■ Extremely important





# KEY FACTORS FOR ENHANCING BILATERAL COOPERATION

- **Cooperation between governments**
  - *«creating a Top-Level Group for bilateral consultations – for building trust» (P9); «official and informal international policy of both governments» (P11); «intergovernmental cooperation for both countries» (P12)*
- **Cooperation in border regions**
  - *«foster cooperation at the border regions» (P14), «open cooperation at the borders» (P13)*
- **Involvement of supranational/international structures**
  - *«joint actions within international organizations» (P7); «involvement of the EU into ecologic and economic projects» (P2), «cooperation on the EU level» (P19)*
- **Involvement of stakeholders into cooperation**
  - *«students exchange» (P2), «academic community» (P1), «support of research in academia» (P12)*
  - *«development of joint business projects» (P14)*
- **Other factors**
  - *«tourism» (P2)*
  - *«generation change in both countries» (P17)*

# Role of stakeholders in promoting Romania-Ukraine relations

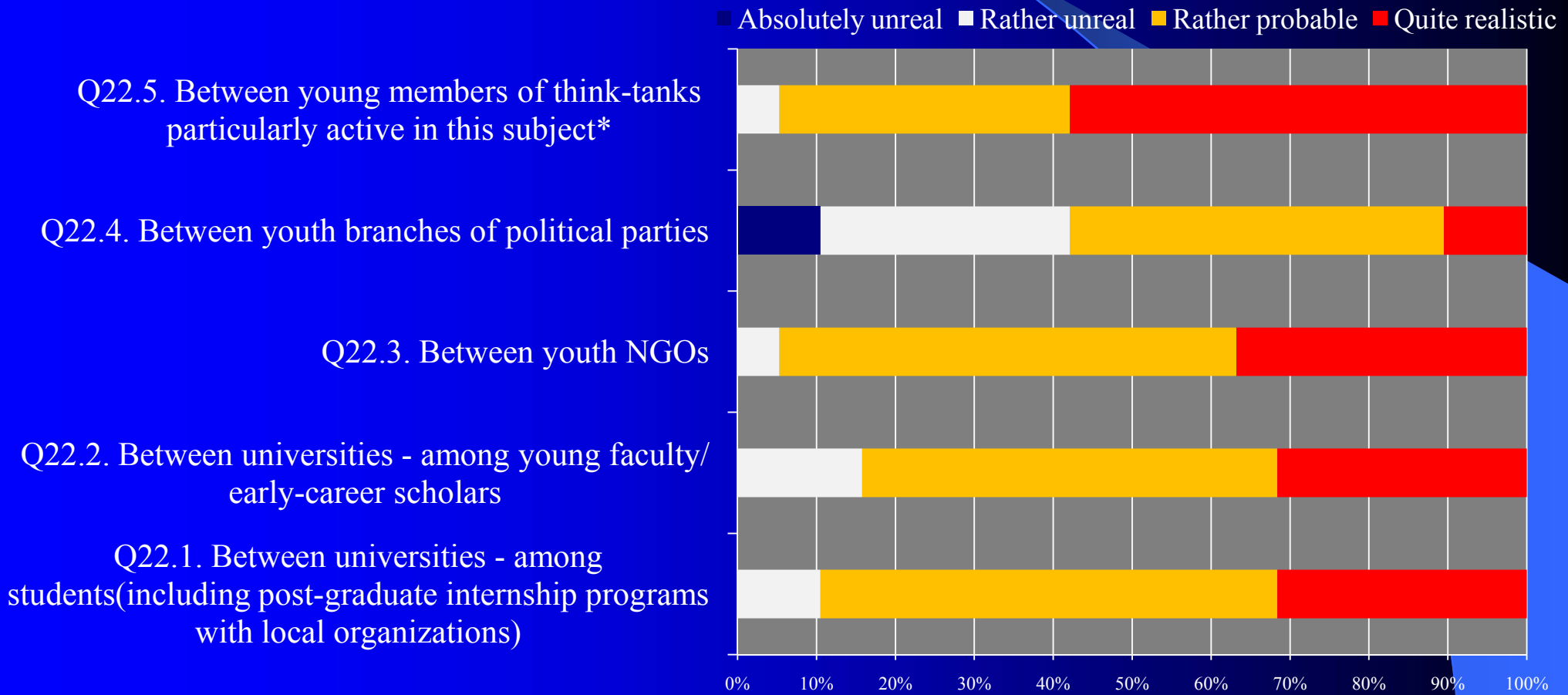
	STAKEHOLDERS	
	Influential, %*	Active, %*
1. Academic community	15,8	15,8
2. Non-governmental think tank and NGOs	15,8	63,2
3. International organizations	42,1	47,4
4. Students, young leaders (including diaspora)	5,3	15,8
5. Business community: large multi-national companies	26,3	15,8
6. Business community: large national companies (Ukrainian or Romanian)	26,3	15,8
7. Business community: small and medium companies	5,3	15,8
8. Governments	68,4	21,1
9. Local communities (in the border regions)	47,4	42,1
10. Media observers	15,8	15,8
11. Criminal groups, illegal traders	10,5	5,3

# Assessment of civil-society actors working in the region

	Sufficient AWARENESS level, (%)	Sufficient INVOLVEMENT level, (%)
Absolutely disagree	15,8	-
Rather disagree	42,1	26,3
Rather agree	36,8	52,6
Completely agree	5,3	21,1
TOTAL	100	100

=> Rather sufficient involvement along with lack of awareness / information ?

# Feasibility perspectives for YOUTH-YOUTH COOPERATION between Romania and Ukraine for the nearest future



# Summary (I)

- Relations improved during last 1,5 year
  - The share of experts who assessed relations as «rather positive» before February 2009 is 37% - comparing with 47% with regard to current situation
- Comparison with relations with other “neighbours”:
  - Romanian experts tend to give lower assessment of relations between Romania and Hungary than Ukrainian experts
  - Ukrainian experts tend to underestimate relations between Romania and Moldova, comparing to Romanian respondents
- Changes in the nearest future
  - One third of all respondents believe in possibility of positive changes, 37% suppose that «conservation» of relations instead
  - Majority expects changes in 3-5 years, not earlier

# Summary (II)

- Factors of influence on current state of relations
  - Common: lack of governmental contacts/co-operation, rivalry for the natural resources in the Black Sea basin, along with the historical problem of Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact and its outcome for the borders of the region prevail under other factors
  - Different: Ukrainian experts stress on dissemination of Romanian passports in Ukraine, Romanian experts overestimate Romania's pro NATO position
- Role of stakeholders
  - Influential + active => international organizations and local communities of border regions
  - Influential but low active => governments
  - Active but low influential => non-governmental think-tanks/NGOs

# Summary (III)

- The role of media in forming country's image
  - Romanian experts give negative assessments (image of Romania in Ukraine)
  - Ukrainian experts tend to give lower assessments (of image of Ukraine in Romania) than international and Romanian experts
- Youth-youth cooperation
  - Most realistic – between experts from think-tanks and youth NGOs; academic collaboration and student exchanges are also probable

# Q & A

Tetiana Kostiuchenko

Strategic and Security Studies Group

[info@gsbs.org.ua](mailto:info@gsbs.org.ua), [tetiana.kostiuchenko@yahoo.com](mailto:tetiana.kostiuchenko@yahoo.com)